

Fair Registration Practices Report

Chartered Accountants (2008)

The answers that you submitted to OFC can be seen below.

Provision of Information About Registration Practices (1 / 13)

Describe how you make information about registration practices available to individuals applying or intending to apply for registration. Specify the tools used to provide information, and the manner in which you make that information available, current, accurate and user friendly in each of these subcategories:

a) steps to initiate the registration process

The Institute provides information on the registration process through its website, publications, bylaws, regulations, other documents, and liaison efforts.

The Career Information department of the Institute provides information and advice to groups such as high school and university students by utilizing school visits and career fairs. The Education area provides information to the Ontario Universities. The Education and Practice Inspection areas, provides information and advice to the CA training offices and CA firms that are interested in becoming a training office.

In addition, the Institute produces a number of documents explaining the qualification process and the requirements for registration. These documents are tailored to the specific audience where applicable. All website information and documentation is reviewed on an annual basis and updates are made as required.

Enquiries pertaining to registrations are answered by the Member and Student Records representatives. Member and Student Records provide counselling to students and potential students and staff in this department may consult with other departments as required.

b) requirements for registration

The Institute provides potential applicants and students with information through its website, bylaws, regulations and various documents. As well, the Member and Student Records representatives are available to respond to telephone and e-mail enquiries promptly.

The requirements for registration are incorporated in the website and counselling information provided regarding the initiation of the registration process. In addition, the registration forms themselves provide detailed instructions and information on the requirements and a checklist is also provided for potential registrants. The ICAO Member's

handbook contains the Institute's bylaws and regulations. The handbook is accessible to the public through the website.

c) explanation of how the requirements for registration are to be met, such as the number of years of schooling required for a degree to be deemed equivalent to an Ontario undergraduate degree, length and type of work experience, credit hours or program content

The Institute provides potential applicants and CA students with information through its website and through various documents prepared to assist in answering enquiries of this kind. The Member and Student Records area within the Institute assists applicants by providing information regarding the registration process including the educational requirements. The Career Information area assists in this function by liaising with educational institutions. The Education area through their university contacts updates the educational information on an annual basis.

In order to meet the requirements for registration the applicable completed application form must be received at the Institute for processing by the Member and Student Records area. The course credit requirement is verified by the accompanying official university transcript and the applicable course outlines. A review by the Education area is completed and applicant is notified of approved courses in writing by the Member and Student Records representatives. The degree requirement is verified by the Member and Student Records area, utilizing the current International Handbook of Universities publication. If the degree cannot be verified from this source, the Education area will assess the degree.

For internationally trained applicants, the Applications Committee assesses previously obtained accounting experience using the experience certification report(s) and other supporting documentation provided by the applicant to determine whether the applicant has acquired the depth and breadth of competencies and the levels of proficiency for the competencies that are required of an entry-level Chartered Accountant in Ontario.

d) any education or practical experience required for registration that must be completed in Ontario or practice that must be supervised by a member of the profession who is registered in Ontario

The Institute provides potential applicants and students with information through its website and through various documents prepared to assist in answering enquiries of this type. The Member and Student Records area within the Institute assists applicants by providing information regarding the registration process including the educational requirements or practical experience requirements.

CA students may complete a portion of their three-years of practical experience (up to one year) outside of Ontario if so approved by the Institute. Experience gained outside of Ontario is generally considered to be a "secondment" and must meet certain criteria as set out in

Regulation I. The Education department assists by providing ongoing updates on educational changes and on occasion, information on foreign degrees. Other departments assist as needed. Updates are made as required.

For internationally trained applicants the process is different. For those who are members or former members of recognized accounting bodies with which the Institute has a mutual recognition agreement, there is no additional educational component that must be completed in Ontario.

Internationally trained applicants who are members of a non-recognized accounting body may have to complete additional educational requirements. These requirements may include Canadian tax, Canadian law and a Canadian advanced accounting course. The Applications Committee reviews the accounting experience for internationally trained applicants and makes a determination as to whether additional accounting experience is required. Exemptions from some of the requirements may be available. Requests from exemptions are decided individually by the Institute's Applications Committee.

e) requirements that may be satisfied through acceptable alternatives

The Institute's website contains information on the processes that must be completed for those trained in Ontario and those that are seeking registration based on international training. The Institute's bylaws and regulations specify the requirements for registration and the acceptable alternatives and the processes for accessing these alternatives if applicable. Additionally, telephone enquiries and enquiries received via email and letter are answered by the appropriate department.

For internationally trained applicants, the Applications Committee may make a determination that all or a portion of the experience gained outside of Ontario is acceptable for fulfillment of the prescribed practical experience requirement.

f) the steps in the assessment process

The assessment process begins with providing the applicant with information regarding the Institute's requirements and the forms necessary for applying. The applicant completes the various forms and provides the documents required by the Institute. The Member and Student Records area receives and assesses the application and communicates with the applicant.

Internationally trained applicants have a slightly different process in that they are required to provide additional documentation regarding their accreditation elsewhere. This information is then considered by the Applications

Committee. The process used in described elsewhere in this report.

g) the documentation of qualifications that must accompany each application; indicate which documents, if any, are required only from internationally trained applicants

Generally, to register as a student with the Institute an applicant must provide the following: completed application forms; university transcript(s); proof of employment or an offer of employment with a training office; proof of legal name. These requirements are communicated to applicants through the Institute's website, the application forms and other materials prepared specifically for student registration.

The documentation that is required from internationally educated applicants is communicated to the applicants either through the website, through correspondence sent to the individual or in a telephone conversation. An enquiry that results in a request for information or the initiation of the process is responded to in writing.

Applicants who are internationally trained should provide: a completed application form; a letter of good standing from the accounting body; if the applicant is no longer a member, a letter from the accounting body stating that at the time the membership ended the applicant was in good standing; forms completed by previous employers to verify any previous accounting experience.

In addition to the above, if the applicant is a member or a former member of either a non-recognized or non-assessed accounting body, the applicant should also provide official transcripts of courses completed at a university as part of a degree program. If the applicant is coming from a non-assessed accounting body, course syllabuses, and course outlines would likely be requested if available. Additional information is usually sought to assist in the assessment process for these applicants. A current resume for example, will be required and other documents confirming residency at the time of writing international examinations are needed. Experience Certification Reports are needed from all previous employers, if available. If documents are not in English, notarized translations are required.

h) alternatives to the documentation if applicants cannot obtain the required documentation for reasons beyond their control

A sworn affidavit will be accepted if transcripts are unavailable and the applicant may also use a sworn affidavit if it is not possible to have previous employers complete the Institute's forms.

i) how applicants can contact your organization

Applicants may contact the Institute by telephone, email, fax, website and letter.

j) how, why and how often your organization

Applicants are contacted at least once per year

initiates communication with applicants about their applications

to ensure that the applicant's application is proceeding. At the initial stage of the application process, applicants are sent a confirmation of registration, a confirmation of course credit assessment(s), confirmation of examination(s) registration, examination results, and any application committee decisions (if applicable).

As each step in the process is initiated or completed, applicants are contacted. Applicants may contact the Institute at any time during the process to be assisted by a Member and Student Records representative who will assist them by providing information and where applicable, advice on the process. Applicants may also contact staff in the Registrar's department to receive updates on the status of their file. Regular reviews of files is undertaken where applicable.

k) the process for dealing with documents provided in languages other than English or French

Required documents must be translated into English and a notarized translation provided.

l) the role of third-party organizations, such as qualification assessment agencies, organizations that conduct examinations or institutions that provide bridging programs, that applicants may come into contact with during the registration process

Generally, the applicant will not come into contact with third-party organizations such as assessment agencies. Third-party qualification assessments of applicants is not a requirement of the qualification assessment process.

In terms of the educational background of an applicant, the Institute conducts its own internal review and if additional information may be helpful, applicants may submit a report from World Education Services, (WES) or from the University of Toronto or York University. Both universities have departments to assess academic qualifications at the post secondary level. However, the final decision on the acceptability of the applicant's qualifications rests with the Institute.

If the applicant comes from another province within Canada, the Institute assesses the applicant's qualifications from that province. Validation or additional information may be requested from the educational institution or the applicant depending upon the issue.

An applicant may also be either a member or a former member of another accounting body. Communication with that accounting body may be necessary in certain circumstances. For example, to ensure that the most current information is available on the accreditation process for that accounting body.

m) any timelines, deadlines or time limits that applicants will be subject to during the registration process

Students being trained domestically must adhere to the timelines established in the Institute's bylaws and regulations. There are additional timelines for "membership candidates". Documents explaining these timelines are available on the Institute's website

and the information is made available to students upon registration.

For CA students, core knowledge examination (CKE) is only valid for three calendar years. The maximum period of registration is seven years for students who have not attempted the uniform evaluation or ten years for students who have attempted the uniform evaluation (UFE) Those students who have successfully passed the UFE do not have any maximum period of registration.

For internationally trained applicants, there is currently no maximum period of registration. The CA Reciprocity Examination (CARE) must be completed within three years of the application for admission to membership. Internationally trained candidates seeking admission to membership must have not more than five years prior to the date on which the application for admission is received, successfully completed all requirements for admission to membership. The CARE examination is normally written by applicants from accounting bodies which have a mutual recognition agreement with the Institute.

n) the amount of time that the registration process usually takes

The length of time the registration process takes varies. The factors influencing this include but are not limited to whether the applicant is a student or whether the applicant is internationally trained. In general terms, a student's registration process is completed upon receipt of the required documents.

A straight forward application from an internationally trained applicant can take approximately six months or less to process. However, if there is difficulty obtaining documentation the process may be longer. For example, if there is an appeal of a registration decision during the process may also take longer.

An internationally trained applicant from a recognized accounting body may complete the process in less than a year, depending upon when the individual applies and when they are able to write the applicable examination. Those applying from non-recognized or non-assessed accounting bodies may have to complete a period of practical experience. Their registration will be dependant the completion of the Institute's examinations and their own diligence in providing the information required by the Institute.

The Institute makes information available on the foregoing through its website, its bylaws, in correspondence with applicants and through the various methods previously described.

o) information about all fees associated with registration, such as fees for initial application, exams and exam rewrites, course enrolment or issuance of licence

Information regarding fees is provided as part of the application process and is available on the Institute's website as well as in correspondence to applicants and through other methods such as Career Information. A fee schedule is readily available to applicants and those seeking information about the Institute.

Fees

Student registration fee \$100

Student annual maintenance of registration fee \$250

Chartered Accountants Student Association of Ontario (CASAO) annual fees \$30

Assessment/Course Assessment (all courses attended at accredited universities outside Canada are assessed for this one-time fee) \$480

Membership Candidate registration processing fee \$100

Membership Candidate maintenance of registration fee (where period of registration is less than 4 years) \$250

Membership Candidate maintenance of registration fee (where period of registration is 4 years or more) \$500

Membership Candidate admission fee (after passing the CARE) \$1,000

Upon admission to membership after fulfilling the student requirements (admission fee) \$500

Initial Public Accountants Council (PAC) application fee \$130

PAC renewal fee for public accountant's licence \$150

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario (ICAO) annual membership fee \$455

Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) annual membership fee \$425

Course and Examination Fees

School of Accountancy including the core-knowledge exam and the end-of-school exam \$1,350

Uniform Evaluation (UFE) \$1,150

Chartered Accountants Reciprocity Exam (CARE) \$800

Chartered Accountants Reciprocity Exam Preparation Course \$900

Other Fees

The fees listed above are Institute fees and may be subject to change. Other fees may apply depending on your individual situation. For example, if you require language training or any university courses, you are responsible for paying for them. Also, if you appeal a decision made by the applications committee the cost of a transcript of your hearing may be about \$200, depending on the length of the hearing.

p) accommodation of applicants with special needs, such as visual impairment

A student or applicant with a physical or medical disability likely to affect performance on an examination may, prior to the date of the examination, request special arrangements for attempting it. Such requests generally fit into

the following three categories:

- a. those from students with permanent or long-term disabilities who were given special consideration in writing university examinations;
- b. those from students whose physical or medical disabilities were not previously assessed by a university or have occurred more recently and, therefore, were not present while attending university; or
- c. those from students who have been diagnosed with otherwise invisible medical conditions, such as lung disorders, diabetes, epilepsy and heart and circulatory disorders, which may be aggravated under examination conditions and potentially cause distress to both the student and others writing in the same centre.

The special consideration granted will depend on the specific circumstances and ranges from granting extra writing time to permission to make use of special equipment. In most cases, any student granted special consideration is required to write examinations at a special writing centre. In all cases, an Accommodation Eligibility Questionnaire available from the Institute must be completed by the student at least six weeks prior to the date of the examination. Earlier notification is preferred to allow the Institute sufficient time to obtain independent confirmation of documentation, and to evaluate and approve the request. The request must be accompanied by appropriate documentation, such as confirmation of disability from at least one doctor who is a specialist in the particular field. The Institute reserves the right to request a second opinion from a specialist of the Institute's choosing.

The Director of Education at the ICAO, along with representatives from the other provinces and CICA form a committee to assess these special considerations. A psychologist also helps with these assessments. If further medical specialty is required to make a decision, this information is sought.

Information on the foregoing is available through the Education department and through the Institute's ongoing efforts to keep students and applicants informed.

Amount of Fees (2 / 13)

Are any of the fees different for internationally trained applicants? If yes, please explain.

The fees for membership candidates are different from the standard CA student fees. The fees reflect the different stage of the membership process for the applicant.

Provision of Timely Decisions, Responses and Reasons (3 / 13)

a) What are your timelines for making registration decisions

The term “registration decisions” is not entirely applicable to the Institute’s processes. However, those applying to register as a student will be advised whether their application has been accepted within a few weeks, once all of the required registration materials have been received. The process for the internationally trained differs and is described elsewhere in this report.

Once all of the requirements for the CA designation have been completed, the student or membership candidate as the case may, be is informed that they are eligible to apply for membership. The information and forms necessary to complete the process and become a member are provided to the individual at that time.

b) What are your timelines for responding to applicants in writing

Applicants who write to the Institute are usually responded to within two weeks depending upon the nature of the enquiry. Telephone calls are usually responded to within one to two business days. Email is responded to as soon as practical and usually with a few days at most.

c) What are your timelines for providing written reasons to applicants about all registration decisions, internal reviews and appeal decisions

The timeline for providing written reasons vary depending on the complexity of the issue and whether the matter must proceed through a committee or other decision making processes. For example, an applicant who appears before the Applications Committee for membership candidate status or who appears before the Committee requesting exemptions from some of the Institute’s requirements, will be provided with a verbal answer to their request at the end of the hearing. A letter summarizing the decision of the Committee will be sent with a week. Formal written reasons for the decision are sent usually within three to four months.

The timing of other written communications depends upon the nature of the issue and how the matter may be considered. If the matter is straightforward and administrative in nature, a written reply will usually be sent in a week or two. If the matter requires further information or consideration because of its complexity or other factors, the answer may be provided in few weeks.

d) Explain how your organization ensures that it adheres to these timelines.

The Institute provides timely responses to enquires. Consideration of the issue may take time depending upon the nature of the issue and the request.

Written decisions issued by Institute Committees may require time to write due to the complexity of the issues and need to ensure a complete and accurate record in the event of an appeal. Appeals considered by the

Institute's Appeals Committee for example, require a hearing under the Statutory Powers Procedure Act. These decisions are therefore, by their nature, quasi-judicial in nature and are not put on a timeline.

The volume of requests may also affect the timelines for providing written decisions.

Access to Records (4 / 13)

a) Describe how you give applicants access to their own records related to their applications for registration.

Applicants have access to their records upon request. There is no charge for access. Records including university transcripts, a copy of the applicant's birth certificate, passport or driver's license etc. may be obtained from the ICAO. It should be noted that the majority of an applicant's file is provided by the applicant and therefore, access is not an issue.

Internal notes of a purely administrative nature are kept in the Institute's database. Access to the applicant's examination papers is described below.

b) Explain why access to applicants' own records would be limited or refused.

Assuming that an applicant's examination(s) are considered to be a part of the applicant's record, the Institute provides limited access to examinations as described below.

There are three examinations.

1) The Core-Knowledge examination (CKE) is a non-disclosed multiple choice examination. Up to 50% of the questions on this examination (which is held in January and May each year) are taken from a previous examination. We therefore do not allow students to take the question paper or question answers home. Students also sign a waiver stating that they will not discuss the contents of the examination with anyone. Students may request a mechanical check of their examination if the student is unsuccessful. A \$60 fee (plus GST) applies. The examination is computer scored, so if a mechanical check is requested, an Associate Director in the Education department marks the examination by hand to see if there is a discrepancy. An Institute regulation states that the examination answer papers, once submitted, are the property of the Institute and that they are retained by the Institute for a period of 60 days from the date of the release of the results and are then destroyed.

2) The School of Accountancy (SOA) examination is an analytical examination comprised of multi-competency questions. However, there is no direct testing of core knowledge on this examination. It focuses instead on competencies and the application of competencies in various scenarios. Students

are permitted to keep the examination questions, but may not have access to their responses once they are submitted. Again, this falls under the Institutes' regulations. In view of the thorough process of marking and re-marking at the School of Accountancy marking centre, there is no provision for further reviews of candidates' answers. However, candidates may request a mechanical check of their paper. The cost to request a mechanical check is \$60 plus GST. The mechanical check involves a tracing of the assessment through the audit log files of the computer system used to accumulate marker assessments and a re-computation of your score and result.

Students do have access via the ICAO web site to suggested solutions, evaluation guides and general markers comments.

The Uniform Evaluation (UFE) is a national examination. A student's own examination paper containing their answers will not be returned or made available after being submitted for marking. Evaluation papers are retained by the Board of Evaluators of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) Qualifications Committee for a period of 60 days from the final date for requesting a review of the results and are then destroyed. Students may keep their examination questions. Students may appeal their results and / or ask for a Performance Analysis Review (PAR). The PAR is a detailed review of the candidate's responses. Markers used to evaluate the evaluation are used by the CICA to prepare these reviews. Students also have access, via the ICAO web site to the UFE report. This report is prepared by the CICA's Board of Evaluators and includes suggested solutions, evaluation guides and comments from the Board of Evaluators.

c) State how and when you give applicants estimates of the fees for making records available.

There is no charge for accessing student records. Students are informed of this upon request.

d) List the fees for making records available.

There is no charge for accessing student records. However, a student may request an official ICAO transcript, which would be produced for a fee of \$15.00 plus GST

e) Describe the circumstances under which payment of the fees for making records available would be waived or would have been waived.

There is no charge for accessing student records.

Resources for Applicants (5 / 13)

a) List and describe any resources that are

Applicants have access to past SOA and UFE

available to applicants, such as application guides, exam blueprints or programs for orientation to the profession.

examinations on our web site. The questions and suggested solutions, along with evaluation guides are also available on our web site. SOA exams from 2003 to 2008 and UFE exams from 2002 to 2007 are currently available.

The CKE is a non-disclosed examination, so past examinations are not available. Sample questions are however, available on the website.

The CA Reciprocity Examination (CARE) is the means by which the provincial and territorial CA institutes measure the professional competence, in a Canadian context, of members of accounting bodies outside Canada assessed by the International Qualifications Appraisal Board as having education, examination and experience requirements substantially equivalent to the Canadian CA qualification program. The CARE examines candidates on their knowledge of Canadian accounting and assurance standards, the rules of professional conduct, Canadian taxation and Canadian business law. Copies of the examination and solutions are available on the Institute's website.

The Institute's Career Information department is a liaison with the various universities and high schools to provide information to potential applicants. Information on the profession and requirements is also available on the Institute's website.

b) Describe how your organization provides information to applicants about these resources.

As discussed above, information is provided through our website and Career Information Department. If applicants have specific questions, our Customer Service department helps answer their questions or directs them to the appropriate department and individual.

Internal Review or Appeal Processes (6 / 13)

This section refers to initial internal reviews or appeals.

a) List your timelines for completing internal reviews or appeals of registration decisions.

The timeline for completing an internal review or appeal depends upon the nature of the initial decision or issue. Some matters may be processed administratively within a few days or weeks. Other issues require a hearing or consideration by a committee of the Institute. In such cases, the timing of the consideration is dependant upon the schedule of the committee, the applicant's ability to provide required information prior to any consideration, and other factors relating to the nature of the request.

In the case of an appeal from a decision of the Applications Committee for example, the decisions of the Applications Committee may take three or four months or so to write, given

the volume of the decisions produced and the need to ensure that there is a complete record should the applicant wish to appeal. Any such appeal may be initiated by the applicant within thirty-days from the receipt of the written reasons for the decision. After the applicant has initiated the appeal, the matter will be scheduled with the Appeal Committee as soon as practical. The hearing usually takes place within three months from the date of the completion of the appeal materials. These appeals are conducted under the Statutory Powers Procedure Act.

i. State the number of internal reviews or appeals of registration decisions that exceeded your timelines.

Given the above-noted explanation, no internal reviews exceeded the timelines in 2008.

ii. Among internal reviews or appeals that exceeded your timelines, state the number that were from internationally trained applicants.

No internal reviews exceeded the timelines in 2008 given the Institute's processes.

b) Specify the opportunities you provide for applicants to make submissions regarding internal reviews or appeals.

The nature of the submissions made by an applicant depends upon the nature of the issue under consideration. Some reviews are purely administrative in nature and are therefore, made by submitting a request in writing. The applicant may submit any documentation that the applicant believes to be relevant. Other reviews or appeals will require the applicant to attend in person to provide submissions.

Appeals before the Appeal Committee are usually a combination of written oral submissions because these hearings are held according to the Statutory Powers Procedure Act. Consequently, the making of submissions and the nature of these submissions are governed by this Act and the common law.

c) Explain how you inform applicants about the form in which they must make their submissions (i.e., orally, in writing or by electronic means) for internal reviews or appeals.

Information regarding appeals or reviews is communicated to the applicant in a number of ways. First, information is available from the Institute's website and in the Institute's bylaws and on the Institute's forms. Second, information regarding any review or appeal mechanism is usually communicated to the applicant as part of the decision, depending upon the nature of the decision and the matter considered. Additional information and specific questions that the applicant may have are answered, are provided as applicable, upon request.

d) State how you ensure that no one who acted as a decision-maker in a registration decision acts as a decision-maker in an internal review or appeal of the same registration decision.

The Institute's Appeal Committee does not have overlapping membership with any of the Committee's of first instance. The Institute also has conflict of interest guidelines and policies to ensure that conflicts of interest do not arise. If an applicant is aware of a conflict of interest, he or she may ask that the Institute representative be removed for the purposes of

e) Describe your internal review or appeal process.

the decision.

The internal review or appeal process depends upon the nature of the decision and the decision maker of first instance. The Institute's bylaws prescribe the process for many types of appeals or reviews.

Some decisions of a purely administrative nature or that centre on an interpretation of a bylaw or regulation are commonly dealt with by Institute staff. These requests are usually sent to the Institute's Registrar for a final determination if a review is requested. On occasion, there may be an appeal to the Institute's Council.

Where the matter involves a hearing or other consideration by a committee of the Institute, the matter will generally be sent to the Appeal Committee or to Council in rare instances. In the case of the Applications Committee, an applicant who has had a hearing is entitled to appeal in accordance with the Institute's bylaws. This appeal may be initiated within thirty days (30) of receipt of the written reasons for the decision. As previously noted, such appeals are held under the Statutory Powers Procedure Act and are therefore, bound by the requirements of the Act.

f) State the composition of the committee that makes decisions about registration, which may be called a Registration Committee or Appeals Committee: how many members does the committee have; how many committee members are members of the profession in Ontario; and how many committee members are internationally trained members of the profession in Ontario.

The Appeal Committee is composed of CAs and public representatives who have had no involvement in the initial assessments or decisions. It is made up of seventeen (17) CAs and three public representatives who are not CAs, for a total of 20 members. The membership of the Appeal Committee varies over time as members begin and end their term.

The Applications Committee is currently composed of 23 members and 6 public representatives. Currently there are four internationally trained CAs on the Committee. The Applications Committee's terms of reference state that ideally, the Committee will have not fewer than 20 members and not more than 30 members. Two representatives if possible will be from the Chartered Accountants Student Association. Not fewer than 4 and not more than 8 members will be public representatives. There will also be a chair and at least two deputy chairs. In addition, the Institute strives to have the Committee composed of the following:

- 30% to 50% of members to be from national firms or professional corporation;
- 30% to 50% of members to be from local or regional firms or professional corporations;
- 20%-40% of members to be from business, industry or government;
- 35%-65% of members to be from the Toronto area; and

- 35%-65% of members to be from outside of Toronto.

Information on Appeal Rights (7 / 13)

This section refers to reviews or appeals that are available after an internal review or appeal. Describe how you inform applicants of any rights they have to request a further review of or appeal from a decision.

Information regarding appeals or reviews is communicated to the applicant in a number of ways. First, information is available from the Institute's website and in the Institute's bylaws. Second, information regarding any review or appeal mechanism may be communicated to the applicant as part of the decision, depending upon the nature of the decision and the matter considered. Letters advising the applicant of the decision normally contain information regarding the appeal process and any timeline for an appeal. Additional information is provided upon request.

Assessment of Qualifications (8 / 13)

This category covers your processes for assessing all qualifications, such as academic credentials, competencies, language ability or practical experience.

a) List the criteria that must be met in order for an applicant's qualifications to satisfy the entry-to-practice requirements for your profession.

Becoming a CA in Ontario requires:

- a four-year university degree
- 17 specified courses (51 credit hours)
- three years of practical experience in an approved training office
- successful completion of the ICAO's Professional Program, which is composed of the Staff Training Program, the Core Knowledge Examination and the School of Accountancy.
- Successful completion of the Uniform Evaluation.

For those applying with membership from a recognized accounting body, the process may include a period of prescribed practical experience in an approved training office if the individual's competencies are found not to be equivalent to those of an entry-level CA trained in Ontario. In addition, all such applicants must successfully complete the CA Reciprocity Examination (CARE).

An internationally trained individual from a non-recognized accounting body or a non-assessed accounting body must complete if no exemptions are granted:

- Three-years practical experience in an approved training office (unless the individual receives a reduction and/or and exemption from this requirement)
- Canadian business law, Canadian tax and Advanced Accounting (unless the individual receives a reduction and/or and exemption from this requirement)
- The Core Knowledge Examination (unless the individual receives a reduction and/or and

- exemption from this requirement)
- The School of Accountancy (unless the individual receives a reduction and/or and exemption from this requirement)
- The Uniform Evaluation.

Finally, Regulation I, A regulation in respect of students provides that an applicant who is a member of a specified Canadian accounting body must have fulfilled the Institute's general education requirement for registration, namely a degree from a designated university. Such applicants must also successfully complete the course-credit requirement through successful completion of prescribed university degree-credit courses and the minimum average grade requirement in the courses included in the credit-hour requirement. These applicants may also appear before the Institute's Applications Committee and request an exemption from some or all of the practical experience requirement and those examinations for which an exemption may be permitted.

The Applications Committee shall review the previous education, professional qualification (s) and accounting experience of an applicant seeking exemptions to determine whether, taken as a whole, they establish that the applicant has demonstrated, on a substantial equivalency basis, the required breadth and depth of competency development at the levels of proficiency required of an entry-level CA in Ontario, as specified in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements.

b) Describe the methodology used to determine whether a program completed outside of Canada satisfies the requirements for registration.

The International Qualifications Appraisal Board (IQAB) carries out reviews of professional accounting bodies outside Canada to determine whether the requirements for admission to membership in a professional accounting body, or for use of the accounting designation granted by an accounting body (education, examination and experience requirements) are substantially equivalent to the comparable requirements of the provincial institutes in Canada. The Institute and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) have entered into Mutual Recognition Agreements with professional accounting bodies based on an IQAB assessment that each such body has education, examination and experience requirements that are substantially equivalent to the comparable requirements of the provincial institutes in Canada.

When an IQAB review determines the requirements of a professional accounting body outside Canada are not substantially equivalent to comparable requirements of the provincial institutes in Canada, IQAB recommends that the Uniform Evaluation (UFE)

be passed before CA qualification in Canada is achieved. Each provincial institute may set any other requirements that must be fulfilled. IQAB has, in some cases, recommended that the members of a particular accounting body also be granted exemption from the pre-UFE education requirements and/or some or all of the prescribed practical experience.

The guidelines used by the International Qualifications Appraisal Board (IQAB) for assessing foreign qualifications and reviewing their previous recommendations are listed below.

GUIDELINE I

Since knowledge of the rules of professional conduct, Canadian tax and commercial law and the CICA handbook is fundamental to a chartered accountant practicing in Canada, all foreign candidates who are exempt from the Uniform Evaluation should be required to demonstrate knowledge of these areas.

GUIDELINE II

In assessing the degree of equivalency of a foreign accounting body's qualification process or in reviewing one of its previous positive recommendations pertaining thereto, IQAB's examination will include an analysis of the following components of that process. In the case of a review, IQAB will assess the nature and impact of any process changes implemented since the assessment was completed.

For purposes of determining the degree of equivalency of the process, IQAB will assess the foreign institute's requirements as a whole rather than assess the extent to which each component of its program equates to the respective Canadian component.

Whenever feasible, IQAB will utilize other external sources in the conduct of its assessments. These other sources could include, but are not limited to: discussions with persons who have acquired business experience both in Canada and the target country; data bases on the business environment in the target country; and Chambers of Commerce.

1) Cultural, Business and Economic Environment

- a) perspective on accounting - the structure and administration of the profession; the cultural, business and economic environment
- b) code/rules of conduct
- c) ethical guides - fundamental principles and/or disciplinary procedures
- d) the profession's role in accounting and auditing standard setting
- e) contemporary issues affecting the profession

2) Education Entrance Requirements

- a) age**
- b) elementary and secondary education - additional conditions if a university degree is not required.**
- c) polytechnic/community college -additional conditions if a university degree is not required.**
- d) university degree**
 - additional conditions if:**
 - concentration is in accounting;**
 - concentration is in business, but not accounting; and**
 - concentration is in other than accounting or business.**
- e) accreditation of post-secondary educational institutions**
- f) other professional program requirements**

3) Method and Scope of Professional Examination(s)

- a) purpose and objectives**
- b) existence and nature of a syllabus of knowledge and skills**
- c) knowledge requirements**
 - breadth of subject matter coverage;**
 - depth of knowledge, level of difficulty; and**
 - extent of testing of concepts vs. procedures.**
- d) skills tested; types of questions**
 - objective vs. essay;**
 - directive vs. unstructured requirements;**
 - testing of recall vs. application; and**
 - testing of single topic vs. integration.**
- e) method of grading, marking procedures, examination controls**
- f) frequency of the examination(s); uniformity**
- g) passing standards/statistics; and analysis thereof by degree and/or educational background**
- h) number of attempts permitted**
- i) length/duration**
- j) information on extent of pre-screening prior to final examination(s)**
- k) conditional or partial pass standings and the related circumstances**
- l) exemption from writing qualifying exams and the related circumstances and controls**

4) Practical Experience

- a) term of practical experience**
- b) type of practical experience (public accounting and/or industry, etc.)**
- c) minimum hours required in total, accounting, auditing and tax**
- d) monitoring type and quality of practical experience**
- e) training office accreditation/supervision**

c) Explain how work experience in the profession is assessed.

Work experience is assessed for both the domestically trained and the internationally trained against the UFE Candidate's Competency Map and the CA Practical

Experience Requirements document. This document sets out the specific competencies and proficiency levels that CA candidates are expected to demonstrate. CA education is competency-based and it is designed to ensure that the CA has the breadth and depth of knowledge in the required competency areas. It focuses on ensuring that every CA, on qualification, has the necessary level of underlying knowledge and the practical skills and experience to apply that knowledge effectively. It is a process that integrates:

- Formal, competency-based academic and professional education, acquired through recognized academic and professional education programs delivered by universities and by the profession’s four regional delivery systems;**
- Ongoing evaluation and simulation to help candidates develop competencies and assess their readiness for entry to the CA profession;**
- Uniform Evaluation (the UFE) which all candidates must pass in order to enter the profession. The UFE challenges candidates to demonstrate competence by responding to simulations — business cases that are representative of the kinds of challenges faced by the entry-level CA; and**
- Practical experience, acquired through a term of employment of a minimum of three years, including graduate-level professional education, with a CA Training Office recognized by the profession.**

d) Describe how your organization ensures that information used in the assessment about educational systems and credentials of applicants from outside Canada is current and accurate.

IQAB does assessments as needed to ensure that existing mutual recognition agreements are current and meet the required standards. This is done at intervals set by the IQAB and in keeping with its policies and procedures. Ongoing reviews of this if needed, are done in keeping with applications received. A fuller description of IQAB and its processes is found elsewhere in this report.

e) Describe how previous assessment decisions are used to assist in maintaining consistency when assessing credentials of applicants from the same jurisdictions or institutions.

Because the assessment is based on the accounting body, the list of recognized, non-recognized and non-assessed bodies remains fairly consistent. The assessment of individuals is undertaken against the UFE Candidates’ Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements document and is an individual assessment based upon the criteria found in the map as compared to the individuals’ employment history, demonstrated skills, level of proficiency and other requirements. The criteria for individual assessments is based on the Competency Map which provides a reference point for ensuring that all such decisions are based upon its requirements. Precedent decisions are available to the Committee and the public. In addition, all members of the Applications Committee meet at least once per year to

discuss trends and precedents in decision making. Issues that arise during the year are considered by the Committee and updating and training takes place during this meeting.

f) Explain how the status of an institution in its home country affects recognition of the credentials of applicants by your organization.

This is not entirely applicable to all institutions because the accounting body is assessed against the requirements for domestically trained CAs and this assessment is conducted by IQAB.

g) Describe how your organization accommodates applicants with special needs, such as visual impairment.

A physical or medical disability is not a deciding factor in assessing qualification, academic credentials, competencies, language ability or practical experience. The accommodations that the Institute makes in this regard for applicants and students are described in Part 1 (p) as they relate to examination writing and preparation.

h) State the average length of time required to complete the entire registration process, from when the process is initiated to when a registration decision is issued.

Please see the answer provided in Part 8 (a). Generally speaking, an applicant must complete the educational requirements of the Institute, the Professional Program, and the practical experience requirement. A student registered with the Institute who has completed the educational requirements and is enrolled in the Professional Program will take approximately three years to complete the remaining steps necessary for admission to membership. The length of time however, is dependant upon the student's progression through the necessary steps to membership.

A membership candidate who is a member or a former member of a recognized accounting body may take a year or more to complete the process.

i. State whether the average time differs for internationally trained individuals.

The average time may differ for internationally trained individuals depending upon whether the individual is or was a member in good standing with either a recognized accounting body or a non-recognized accounting body. Applicants from non-assessed accounting bodies may also require additional time depending upon the accounting body.

Three factors influence the length of time for the process. First, the process is largely dependant upon the applicant submitting the information required in order to make an assessment. Second, the examinations that applicants are required to write are held at fixed times during the year. An applicant may have to wait to write an examination depending upon the timing of the application. Finally, the applicant may have to complete any practical experience requirements. The timeliness of this process depends upon the applicants' ability to fulfill the prescribed practical experience.

A straightforward application from an

internationally trained applicant can take up to six months to process if all of the required materials have been submitted by the applicant. If there is difficulty obtaining documentation, the process may be longer. If there is an appeal of a registration decision or a decision taken during the process, the process will take longer. If a hearing is required the entire process will take up to one year. Again however, the timing is largely dependant upon the applicant's diligence in submitting materials and the Institute's own processes are a less significant factor.

ii. If the average time differs for internationally trained individuals, state whether it is greater or less than the average for all applicants, and the reasons for the difference.

The average time will usually be less for individuals from a recognized accounting body. For some, this may be up to a year. A somewhat longer period of time will likely be necessary for those from non-recognized accounting bodies and for those from non-assessed accounting bodies. Again, the length of time is largely dependant on the applicant's ability to submit the required materials as quickly as possible. The timing of the application decision will and whether any additional practical experience is required will also affect the timing for admission to membership.

i) If your organization conducts credential assessments:

i. Explain how you determine the level (e.g., baccalaureate, master's, Ph.D.) of the credential presented for assessment.

The Institute uses the International Handbook of Universities in conjunction with a review of the official transcript provided by the applicant and a review of the course content.

ii. Describe the criteria that are applied to determine equivalency.

As previously described elsewhere in this report.

iii. Explain how work experience is taken into account.

Work experience is not a factor in assessing an educational credential. The assessment of work experience is described elsewhere in this report.

j) If your organization conducts competency assessments:

i. Describe the methodology used to evaluate competency.

**The competency requirements for CA qualification are grouped into six competency areas:
Performance Measurement and Reporting Assurance
Taxation
Governance, Strategy and Risk Management
Management Decision-Making
Finance**

Specific competencies have been identified within each of the six competency areas.

Qualifying practical experience is defined in terms of both the duration of the practical experience (i.e. the number of years) and the breadth and depth of competency development

during the period(s) of practical experience. The minimum term of accounting experience that an applicant must have completed is three years. To meet the depth of competency development requirement, an applicant must demonstrate all of the specific competencies within one or the other of:
Performance Measurement and Reporting, or Assurance.

To meet the breadth of competency development requirement, an applicant must demonstrate at least one-half (50 per cent) of the specific competencies in at least two of the five other competencies.

Examples of evidence of proficiency in CA competencies

The following charts list the key work place competencies in each of the six competency areas, and provide examples of the kind of evidence that would be indicative of proficiency in that area.

Performance Measurement and Reporting Competencies

Competency Possible evidence of competence in the workplace

Analyzes financial reporting needs and establishes the necessary systems (Internal, external financial and non-financial)

Performs research, attends meetings with senior personnel and others, completes interviews and observes activities, to assess the needs of the users, and provides a summary of the analysis afterwards. (This can be for internal or external, financial or non-financial reporting.)

Develops (or evaluates) reporting processes to support the financial reporting infrastructure

Collaborates with others to develop or improve an existing chart of accounts or a database that generates financial information. (For other reporting needs, it could be “data fields”). Develops reliable information Works with others, and reviews processes to help develop (or improve) schedules that leave no unexplained differences. i.e., bank reconciliation, customer or supplier accounts, general ledger activity, etc.; reviews month end reconciliations prepared by others; provides input into systems being developed to generate financial information, ensuring the proper controls are built in.

Develop/evaluate accounting policies
Completes research and analysis of issues, following GAAP where appropriate (CICA

Handbook-Accounting), considering stakeholder needs and alternative approaches; Consults those within the entity with more expertise if necessary.

**Accounts for all the entity's transactions, including non-routine transactions
Prepares or reviews accounting entries, ensuring the reports provide information that complies with GAAP and considers the external and internal information (could be activities for non-financial reporting); For non-routine transactions assists in determining the proper accounting entries to be booked.**

**Prepares or reviews financial statements and accompanying notes
Prepares or reviews month-end, interim or year-end financial statements for reasonableness and follows up on any unusual balances; prepares adjusting entries where necessary; drafts accompanying financial statement notes; Ensures filing deadlines are met.**

**Explains financial statement results and balances to stakeholders
Gathers material and prepares presentation; Orally presents and clearly explains the financial information at an appropriate level of sophistication.**

Maintains awareness of emerging financial reporting topics

Stays abreast of current financial reporting matters and considers how they apply to the entity's particular circumstances.

**Assurance Competencies
Competency Possible evidence of competence in the workplace**

**Analyzes, evaluates and advises on assurance needs (external or internal)
As part of an assurance team, discusses the assurance services options that are available to an entity, given the circumstances, and then presents those options to the client (external or internal); explains to the client how the particular assignment will proceed.**

Considers issues related to accepting an assignment

As part of an assurance team, ensures the assignment is staffed with people that are independent, competent and objective by

making appropriate enquiries; contributes to the discussion of whether to accept a particular assignment through the discussion of particular risk factors, clearly explaining rationale; communicates with predecessor who worked on the assignment if appropriate.

Evaluates the implications of key risks for the assignment

Through observation, discussion and analysis, assesses the entity and identifies the specific risks that could result in material misstatement or fraud/illegal acts; assesses the impact of findings on the work to be performed.

Evaluates internal control (IT or other)

Through observation, inquiry and analysis, documents the entity's key business process and key controls (including IT controls); as part of a team, evaluates the adequacy of the controls in place and suggests improvements where deficiencies are identified; assesses whether existing internal controls are functioning properly or if additional controls are needed and communicates ideas to supervisor.

Designs a work plan and assurance procedures and executes and evaluates the results of the work plan (IT or other)

Through discussion with colleagues and the entity, plans the assignment, including documentation of the rules to be followed, the materiality level to be used, the staffing requirements, the timing, etc; presents the plan to the client (external or internal) for confirmation and acceptance; clearly explains steps to team members; designs (or reviews the design) of valid procedures.

Draws conclusions and drafts a report

Reviews the assignment documentation, critically evaluating the conclusions drawn against the applicable criteria/rules/regulations; analyzes and discusses the impact of errors with senior staff and the need for additional work; drafts an appropriate report.

Participates in a meeting with stakeholders

Helps prepare and present critical assignment findings in meeting(s) with the stakeholder(s).

Taxation Competencies

Competency Possible evidence of proficiency in the workplace:

Identifies and advises on compliance and filing requirements

Be aware of and meet all tax deadlines foreseeing the need for internal controls processes to be put in place, and allowing for the time required for the various revisions, etc.

Informs or counsels the employer or colleagues on the breach of specific tax rules and regulations (ethical and professional requirement).

Prepares and files personal and/or corporate tax returns

Independently prepares basic tax returns for individuals and/or corporations, using the appropriate software; makes enquiries to obtain information where necessary to identify the tax treatments that apply to the situation; stays abreast of changes in the tax legislation and thinks about situations in the entity where the changes might apply.

Prepares information to file personal and/or corporate tax returns, responds to assessments, file objections or appeals

Collaborate with others in researching and in documenting relevant information, identifying valid sources of reference material, taking into account that others may be a valid source of information.

Demonstrate a strong understanding of GAAP and apply it, so that the required journal entries and adjustments required for future income taxes and taxes payables can be reconciled

Since tax topics can be complex, communicate one's ideas clearly and precisely, with clients, colleagues or CRA representatives

Consider additional tax services that could be offered to existing or potential clients (internal or external to the entity)

Governance, Strategy and Risk Management Competencies

Competency Possible evidence of competence in the workplace

Evaluates leadership processes of the board or other governing body

Discusses the structure of the board with colleagues/the client to obtain an understanding of how the entity governs itself; help identify where processes can be improved.

Identifies and evaluates the audit committee's

role in governance

Observes how the entity's audit committee fulfils its role and discusses it with colleagues/client to assess where improvements can be made.

Understands the entity's strategic plan and planning processes and the mission, vision and strategies set out

Based on a good understanding of the high level structure of the entity, discusses with colleagues/ client whether the entity's strategic plan is missing any critical elements; helps identify inconsistencies between the stated mission, vision and strategies and the entity's actual operating environment and processes.

Identifies and evaluates opportunities and risks within an entity

Researches and gathers internal and external information to help identify the risks and opportunities that exist within the entity's operating environment and helps assess whether a certain courses of action should be pursued (e.g. evaluate a proposed deal); discusses potential risks and opportunities with colleagues/ client; presents findings.

Identifies the factors

**that impact the entity's financial strategies
Researches and identifies the factors that affect the entity's strategy; discusses findings with colleagues/ client and assists in a making a presentation on the factors identified.**

Evaluates the entity's performance measurement strategy

As part of a team, observes and enquires to evaluate the approaches used by the entity/client to monitor performance; participates in meetings where the performance measurement strategy is discussed.

Helps evaluate an entity's

plans for risk management Works with colleagues/client to identify the impact of changes in the entity's operating environment on risk management policy; contributes to the development of new policies and procedures that help manage risk levels.

Helps develop or manage courses of action to manage risks

As part of a team, presents suggested methods to manage risk; watches for information suggesting that risk level should be reviewed and reports unexpected findings from ongoing monitoring of information to someone more senior; collaborates with colleagues in the management of specific risks.

Helps ensure the timely but safe access to information
Collaborates with colleagues to assess who currently has access to what information; as part of team, communicates to the appropriate level of management possible ways the entity can improve its access to information.

Management Decision-Making Competencies
Competency Possible evidence of proficiency in the workplace

Participates in the identification of the key information needs of an entity
Reviews internal and external sources of information to assess needs, takes needs into account in developing an organizational chart/process chart.

Participates in the identification of the entity's key performance indicators
Working alone or with others, performs external and internal research, interview, data collection to identify the key indicators or review existing indicators to ensure still appropriate.

Identifies and/ or evaluates acquisition or sourcing decision factors (IT or other)
Participates in the preparation of a "business case" for an acquisition or sourcing of inputs, considering needs, cost/ benefit analysis quantitative and qualitative factors.

Participates in the presentation for approval (oral or written), including the change process, if necessary, and the follow-up evaluation.

Monitors and evaluates product pricing and costing systems
Participates in the analysis and discussion of data gathered to determine the cost of a product – including the allocation of costs.

Evaluates make-or-buy decision factors
Collects data, assesses its reliability, prepares analysis, considering quantitative and qualitative factors – presents recommendation in report or orally.

Evaluates transfer-pricing options
Assists others in evaluating the transfer pricing options within divisions or across separate entities by preparing relevant reports or discussing the implications of various approaches.

Analyzes variances within costing systems/budget

Analyzes, interprets the findings from the analysis of variances in a complete and understandable form (oral and written). Seeks information from others to explain variances. Prepares and presents a report that documents the analysis. Assists in developing a plan to address unfavourable variances that can be improved or eliminated.

Prepares an entity's budget

Participates in the development and prepares a budget for a "unit" of the entity. Assists in presenting/defending the budget.

Prepares a cash flow projection

Helps gather data and assists in the preparation of a cash flow projection using the appropriate technological aids.

Improves the information gathering infrastructure

Taking into account current trends in managerial accounting, identifies possible improvements to the information gathering infrastructure that exists or assists in the development of a new system.

Finance Competencies

Competency Possible evidence of competence in the workplace

Establishes or evaluates financial objectives

Obtains a clear understanding of the entity's strategic direction (obtained through discussion and research); ensures, as part of discussion with colleagues/client that the financial goals align with the strategic direction; monitors the financial situation and cash flow forecasts to see if they reflect what senior management is expecting, and communicating clearly when they don't.

Analyzes the entity's financial situation

Provides insight into how the entity is operating and helps explain why the entity is in the position it is; participates in a presentation of the analysis.

Monitors cash flow

Gathers necessary data and prepares a cash flow analysis to ensure sufficient liquidity; discusses when there may be a cash shortfall

or excess funds and discusses possible action plans with others.

Analyzes the entity's working capital

Analyzes and monitors the entity's current working capital position or components of it (accounts receivable or payable management); provides advice on optimizing the level of working capital.

Identifies and evaluates sources of funds, including financial instruments

As part of a team, discusses possible sources of liquidity based on the needs of the entity, identified through the cash flow analysis; assesses the role, if any, of futures or forwards; participates in discussions with outside investors or lenders.

Develops or analyzes business plans or financial proposals

Participates in the development and presentation of a business plan (could be a capital project or smaller decision) which includes strategic fit/financial benefits and cost/ alternative analysis/high-level risk analysis/ and a recommendation; critically reviews a business plan to ensure the assumptions are correct, that the information is complete and provide a recommendation on whether to accept or reject the plan.

Analyzes the purchase, expansion, or sale of a business As part of a team, helps assess the risks and implications to the entity of a proposed acquisition, divestiture, etc. Participates in the presentation of the findings to senior management.

ii. Explain how the methodology used to evaluate competency is validated, and how often it is validated.

The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) prepares the UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements document. At regular intervals the documents are reviewed and updated. Much of this work is done on an annual basis. These documents outline the competency expectations of an entry-level CA. The CICA has a Competency Map Committee comprised of CA members working in academia, in accounting firms and in industry that are responsible for the Competency Map.

iii. Explain how work experience is used in the assessment of competency.

The CA profession's approach to Qualification is competency-based, i.e. it focuses not just on what the CA Student knows, but also on what he or she can do with that knowledge. Thus the expectations of CA Students are expressed as "CA competencies" — the knowledge, skills and

attitudes which are fully defined in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map. The emphasis in practical experience, as in all components of the Qualification process, is on ensuring the CA Student develops the competencies expected of an entry-level CA. During their terms of practical experience, CA Students are expected to acquire a wide range and significant depth of experience in the CA competencies.

The articulation of competencies creates an effective tool to help:
Promote all elements of desired professional behaviour, extending beyond knowledge to include skills and professional attitude;
Promote high performance standards;
Measure performance; Incorporate emerging trends and changing needs; Respond to the work environment; Promote positive expectations; and Foster life-long and individual-centred learning.

For internationally trained individuals, the determination of how an applicant qualifies and whether an applicant qualifies to receive additional exemption(s) is to be competency-based, meaning the professional education and previous accounting experience of an applicant are to be considered both quantitatively and qualitatively when assessed (measured) against the competencies and the respective proficiency levels for an entry level CA in Ontario, as specified in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements. Again, however, the assessment process is different for those applicants who are or were members of recognized accounting bodies and non-recognized accounting bodies. Nevertheless, the competency requirements in both The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements are grouped into six competency areas:
Performance Measurement and Reporting
Assurance
Taxation
Governance, Strategy and Risk Management
Management Decision-Making
Finance

The substantial equivalency basis for determining whether an applicant qualifies for additional exemptions recognizes that the specific competencies required for membership in the particular accounting body outside Canada and acquired by the applicant as a result of post-qualification accounting experience may not match precisely with the competencies set out in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements. The determination to be made by the Applications Committee, therefore, is whether or not the Committee is satisfied that the applicant, through his or her

professional education and qualification and previous accounting experience, when considered both quantitatively and qualitatively, has demonstrated breadth and depth of competency development that is substantially equivalent to that required of an entry-level CA in Ontario.

k) If your organization conducts prior learning assessments:

i. Describe the methodology used to evaluate prior learning.

ONTARIO STUDENTS:

For students beginning the process in Ontario, the core academic requirement for qualification consists of a 4-year, 120-credit-hour university degree; one that either includes or has been augmented by 51 credit hours of prescribed university degree-credit courses, or by an Institute accredited university program/stream. Students are required to successfully complete university degree-credit courses so that they have covered all the topics in The UFE Candidate's' Competency Map of the profession's Uniform Evaluation (UFE). Business degree programs at most Ontario universities offer all or most of the prescribed courses. Students are encouraged to fulfill the credit-hour requirement as part of an integrated university 4-year, 120-credit-hour degree program.

The CA program is designed to enable potential CA students to obtain comprehensive coverage of the Competency Map for entry to the Chartered Accountancy Profession through university courses. This 51 credit-hour requirement consists of a series of degree-credit courses approved by the ICAO. The specific areas of coverage are:

Subject area	Credit-hours required
Financial accounting (introductory, intermediate and advanced)	15
Cost and management accounting	6
Advanced accounting elective	3
Auditing	9
Taxation	6
Business information systems	3
Finance/financial management	3
Economics	3
Law	3
Total	51

The ICAO updates, on an annual basis, the courses it recognizes from Ontario universities as well as Canadian universities with various contacts from each university. Specific topic coverage, length of the course and other items are included in the assessment. If a course has not been accepted in the past and an applicant asks that it be recognized for credit, the ICAO assesses the course based on the course outline provided by the university.

INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED:

For those internationally trained, the determination to be made by the Applications Committee is whether an applicant has acquired as a result of his or her previous education, professional qualification(s) and previously acquired experience in accounting, the depth and breadth of competency development and the levels of proficiency for the competencies that a candidate must demonstrate at the time of writing the Uniform Evaluation (UFE).

In the case of applicants who hold or held membership in a non-recognized or non-assessed accounting body, and taking into account that the accounting body is not a body that has been determined to have requirements for qualification for admission to membership that are substantially equivalent to the requirements of the Institute, an applicant who seeks additional exemptions from education and/or examination requirements should ordinarily have completed in total more than three years of accounting experience, including experience obtained subsequent to admission to membership in the accounting body outside Canada. In addition, the applicant should have obtained such accounting experience in positions that enabled the applicant to progress to successively more senior positions and in respect of which the applicant demonstrated progressively higher levels of proficiency as well as greater breadth and depth of competency development. The levels of proficiency – the degree or expertise an individual is expected to exhibit in a competency -- as specified in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements document that candidates must demonstrate at the time of writing the UFE are as follows:

Level C: The individual describes accurately the task or role constituting the competency, the possible evidence of performance, the significance of the competency, and the types of circumstances in which it would arise or be applied in normal circumstances. Proficiency at Level C is demonstrated when the individual explains, summarizes, gives examples, depicts, interprets, and paraphrases, among other things, the professional skills and underlying knowledge required by the competency.

Level B: The individual demonstrates without prompting from others an understanding of the task and the required professional skills including basic quantitative and qualitative analysis, but not necessarily the ability to successfully complete the task without adequate support or supervision in normal circumstances. Proficiency at Level B is demonstrated when the nature of the problem

is identified. The issues related to the problem are often evaluated, analyzed, etc. on a preliminary basis. That is, the work requires the review of more senior personnel to ensure its completeness and accuracy. Any requirement for the involvement of personnel with special expertise necessary to complete all aspects of the task is identified. A preliminary recommendation is often made. This level of proficiency includes Level C proficiency.

Level A: The individual completes all elements of a specified task successfully in normal circumstances. Proficiency at Level A is demonstrated when the problem is clearly identified and thoroughly analyzed or when a situation is evaluated and useful recommendations are made and/or implemented. The individual is responsible for the work whether it is completed solely by an individual (a CA) or by a team of individuals (team of CAs). This level of proficiency includes Level B and Level C proficiencies.

Using substantial equivalency as the criterion, it is not required that an applicant must have demonstrated the levels of proficiency for each of the specific competencies within each competency area in order to be granted the exemptions sought. Accordingly, the assessment of whether an applicant has attained the proficiency level(s) in any one or more of the competency areas should be made with reference to the overall proficiency level for the competency area, rather than proficiency levels for each specific competency within the competency area. The overall proficiency level for each competency area that should be attained to demonstrate readiness to write the UFE is as follows:

Performance Measurement and Reporting

Level A

Assurance Level A

Taxation Level B

Governance, Strategy and Risk Management

Level B

Management Decision-Making Level B

Finance Level B

OTHER DOMESTICALLY TRAINED APPLICANTS:

The Applications Committee shall review the previous education, professional qualification (s) and accounting experience of an applicant seeking exemptions to determine whether, taken as a whole, they establish that the applicant has demonstrated, on a substantial equivalency basis, the required breadth and depth of competency development at the levels of proficiency required of an entry-level CA in Ontario, as specified in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements.

The determination of whether an applicant qualifies to receive additional exemption(s) is to be competency-based, meaning the professional education and previous accounting experience of an applicant are to be considered both quantitatively and qualitatively when assessed (measured) against the competencies and the respective proficiency levels for an entry level CA in Ontario, as specified in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements. The substantial equivalency basis for determining whether an applicant qualifies for exemptions recognizes that the specific competencies required for membership in the particular accounting body and acquired by the applicant as a result of post-qualification accounting experience may not match precisely with the competencies set out in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements. The determination to be made by the Applications Committee, therefore, is whether or not the Committee is satisfied that the applicant, through his or her professional education and qualification and previous accounting experience, when considered both quantitatively and qualitatively, has demonstrated breadth and depth of competency development that is substantially equivalent to that required of an entry-level CA in Ontario.

The competency requirements in both The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements are grouped into six competency areas:

- Performance Measurement and Reporting
- Assurance
- Taxation
- Governance, Strategy and Risk Management
- Management Decision-Making
- Finance

There is no formal process for validation of the methodology.

ONTARIO STUDENTS:

For students being trained in Ontario, The CA profession's approach to Qualification is competency-based, i.e. it focuses not just on what the CA Student knows, but also on what he or she can do with that knowledge. Thus the expectations of CA Students are expressed as "CA competencies" — the knowledge, skills and attitudes which are fully defined in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map. The emphasis in practical experience, as in all components of the Qualification process, is on ensuring the CA student develops the competencies expected of an entry-level CA. During their terms of practical experience, CA Students are expected

ii. Explain how the methodology used to evaluate prior learning is validated, and how often it is validated.

iii. Explain how work experience is used in the assessment of prior learning.

to acquire a wide range and significant depth of experience in the CA competencies.

The articulation of competencies creates an effective tool to help: Promote all elements of desired professional behaviour, extending beyond knowledge to include skills and professional attitude; Promote high performance standards; Measure performance; Incorporate emerging trends and changing needs; Respond to the work environment; Promote positive expectations; and Foster life-long and individual-centred learning.

This competency-based approach to CA Qualification is a proven approach which: References prescribed practical experience to a defined set of competencies; Underscores the importance of professional practical experience; Enhances the connection between work and study; and Enhances the professional practical experience beyond fulfilling time requirements. The competency requirements in both The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements are grouped into six competency areas:

- Performance Measurement and Reporting
- Assurance
- Taxation
- Governance, Strategy and Risk Management
- Management Decision-Making
- Finance

The practical experience component of CA Qualification is a partnership between the CA profession and CA Training Offices. It is a significant strength of the CA program, and a critical component in the CA Qualification process. By applying formal learning in real work situations, in approved workplaces, under the supervision of experienced CAs, CA Students are expected to develop and enhance their professional abilities and judgment, demonstrate CA values and ethics, and gain a sense of "belonging" to the CA profession. Practical experience at a CA Training Office provides CA Students with opportunities to: Apply theoretical knowledge and reinforce technical knowledge; Develop and exercise judgment, initiative, and executive and administrative abilities; Develop an appreciation of and commitment to standards of integrity, ethics and independence; Respond to client and/or business needs and identify critical issues and solve problems in real situations; Develop an entrepreneurial spirit; and Enhance professional communication and interpersonal skills.

Further, practical experience emphasizes CA qualities and competencies, including: Professionalism; Independence and objectivity; Membership in a profession (standards, code

of conduct, life-long learning); Intellectual, logically oriented, and strong analytical skills; Skills and processes for making judgments; Professional skepticism; Evidence gathering and evaluation skills; Understanding of business and financial processes; Dealing with different subject matter and professions; Rigorous documentation practices; and Subject matter competence. Practical experience provides assurance that CA Students are exposed to a broad spectrum of issues faced by professionals in the process of qualifying to become Chartered Accountants.

INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED:

The Applications Committee shall review the previous education, professional qualification (s) and accounting experience of an applicant seeking additional exemptions to determine whether, taken as a whole, they establish that the applicant has demonstrated, on a substantial equivalency basis, the required breadth and depth of competency development at the levels of proficiency required of an entry-level CA in Ontario, as specified in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements.

The determination of whether an applicant qualifies to receive additional exemption(s) is to be competency-based, meaning the professional education and previous accounting experience of an applicant are to be considered both quantitatively and qualitatively when assessed (measured) against the competencies and the respective proficiency levels for an entry level CA in Ontario, as specified in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements. The substantial equivalency basis for determining whether an applicant qualifies for additional exemptions recognizes that the specific competencies required for membership in the particular accounting body outside Canada and acquired by the applicant as a result of post-qualification accounting experience may not match precisely with the competencies set out in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements. The determination to be made by the Applications Committee, therefore, is whether or not the Committee is satisfied that the applicant, through his or her professional education and qualification and previous accounting experience, when considered both quantitatively and qualitatively, has demonstrated breadth and depth of competency development that is substantially equivalent to that required of an entry-level CA in Ontario.

The competency requirements in both The UFE

Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements are grouped into six competency areas:

- **Performance Measurement and Reporting**
- **Assurance**
- **Taxation**
- **Governance, Strategy and Risk Management**
- **Management Decision-Making**
- **Finance**

OTHER DOMESTICALLY TRAINED APPLICANTS:

The Applications Committee shall review the previous education, professional qualification (s) and accounting experience of an applicant seeking exemptions to determine whether, taken as a whole, they establish that the applicant has demonstrated, on a substantial equivalency basis, the required breadth and depth of competency development at the levels of proficiency required of an entry-level CA in Ontario, as specified in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements.

The determination of whether an applicant qualifies to receive additional exemption(s) is to be competency-based, meaning the professional education and previous accounting experience of an applicant are to be considered both quantitatively and qualitatively when assessed (measured) against the competencies and the respective proficiency levels for an entry level CA in Ontario, as specified in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements. The substantial equivalency basis for determining whether an applicant qualifies for exemptions recognizes that the specific competencies required for membership in the particular accounting body and acquired by the applicant as a result of post-qualification accounting experience may not match precisely with the competencies set out in The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements. The determination to be made by the Applications Committee, therefore, is whether or not the Committee is satisfied that the applicant, through his or her professional education and qualification and previous accounting experience, when considered both quantitatively and qualitatively, has demonstrated breadth and depth of competency development that is substantially equivalent to that required of an entry-level CA in Ontario.

The competency requirements in both The UFE Candidates' Competency Map and the CA Practical Experience Requirements are grouped into six competency areas:

- **Performance Measurement and Reporting**
- **Assurance**
- **Taxation**

- Governance, Strategy and Risk Management
- Management Decision-Making
- Finance

OTHERS:

An applicant who is at least 25 years of age, does not have a university degree and seeks to be registered as a student may request to be registered as a mature student (and the university degree requirement will be waived if) he/ she provides evidence that he or she: (i) is enrolled in a designated university in courses that qualify for, or lead to fulfilment of, the credit-hour requirement prescribed in Section 301; and (ii) has obtained accounting, business or other relevant work experience of three or more years or equivalent work experience acceptable to the ICAO.

l) If your organization administers examinations:

i. Describe the exam format, scoring method and number of rewrites permitted.

The examinations are as follows:

CA Reciprocity Examination - CARE

The CARE consists of two three-hour papers written over two consecutive days. Day 1 of the CARE tests knowledge of accounting (approximately 50 marks) and assurance standards (approximately 50 marks). Day 2 of the CARE tests knowledge of Canadian taxation (approximately 50 marks), rules of professional conduct/ethics (approximately 30 marks) and Canadian business law (approximately 20 marks).

The 2008 CARE covered the following material to the extent that it is integral to the demonstration of knowledge of Canadian accounting and assurance standards, the rules of professional conduct, Canadian taxation and Canadian business law:

CICA Pronouncements to March 31, 2008

CICA Handbook - Accounting (including Accounting Guidelines, Emerging Issues Committee Abstracts and Exposure Drafts of proposed revisions);

CICA Handbook - Assurance (including Assurance Guidelines, EDP Guidelines and Exposure Drafts of proposed revisions);

Public Sector Accounting Handbook (including Guidelines and Exposure Drafts of proposed revisions); and

Guidance of the Risk Management and Governance Board (formerly known as the Criteria of Control Board) (Guidance on Control, November 1995 and Guidance on Assessing Controls, April 1999)

Federal Taxation Legislation enacted as of March 31, 2008

Those writing the CARE in 2008 were responsible for federal taxation legislation enacted as of March 31, 2008. If, as of that date,

there is proposed federal taxation legislation that, if enacted, would change certain provisions for which you those sitting the examination were responsible. Those writing the examination were not responsible for: Provincial tax legislation; or Accounting and auditing terminology, pronouncements and practices or tax law applicable only to specific industries; Changes relevant to CICA pronouncements published, in printed or electronic media, after March 31, 2008.

The Examinations Committee (EC) is responsible for the selection of examination topics (validity and relevance), the review and approval of the examination questions (difficulty and comparability with prior CARE), the review and approval of the marking process (evaluation guide development, independent double marking and arbitration), and the review and approval of the examination results (passing standard and fairness).

CARE questions, evaluation guides and suggested solutions are prepared by external authors on topics recommended by the EC; the authors are CA specializing in the area of the questions commissioned to them; CA-Lawyer are preparing business law and rules of professional conduct questions.

The EC reviews the questions, evaluation guides and suggested solutions and ensure that the questions are relevant and the CARE is a valid test of the CARE's objectives. Any deficiencies in the design of the questions are resolved by the Associate Director of Education, in consultation with the authors of the questions. Revised questions and related materials are submitted to the EC for review and approval.

Markers are assigned to a team in their area of competency. A team is at least composed on two markers. Photocopies of sample papers are provided to markers to perform test marking prior to live marking. Markers in a team debrief their marking results to reach a consensus on the application of the evaluation guides. Any deficiencies in the evaluation guide are resolved by the Associate Director of Education, and revised guides retested.

All answer papers are marked and earned marks are circled on the evaluation guides. Checkers ensure that each page of answers has been considered for marking and that marks have been properly added and entered.

Results are analyzed and papers falling within a range are selected for second marking; usually 40% to 50% of all papers are selected for second marking, each paper being assigned to a different marker in the team. The same

checks as in the first marking are performed to ensure completeness, accuracy and reliability of the results' data.

The results of the second marking are analyzed and compared to the first marking results. When discrepancies of more than one mark exist between first and second marking, the two markers meet to arbitrate the paper and reach a consensus on the final mark. When discrepancies of one mark or less exist, the final mark is determined by averaging the first and second marking results.

The EC also determines the passing standard for the CARE, in consultation with the Director of Education and the Associate Director in charge of the CARE marking centre. In determining the passing standard, papers around an estimated pass mark are selected, read and ranked by the Director and one or two Associate Director(s) of Education. The ranking is based on an overall assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of a given paper.

Core Knowledge Examination – CKE

The CKE is a four-hour, computer-scored, multiple-choice examination. It is a non-disclosed examination (no solutions are published and the question papers are to be collected at the writing centres). Students are not permitted to bring any reference sources to the CKE.

The CKE is comprised of approximately 100 multiple-choice questions (MCQs). The MCQs are arranged by competency area in the same order as the UFE Candidates' Competency Map (the Competency Map). The marks allocated to each competency area are as follows:
Governance, Strategy and Risk Management 5%

Performance Measurement and Reporting 25%
Assurance 30%
Finance 10%
Management Decision-Making 15%
Taxation 15%

Marks are not deducted for wrong answers. Students are required to achieve a minimum level of performance on the CKE not more than three years prior to the commencement of the School of Accountancy (SOA) in order to proceed to the SOA and/or attempt the related SOA examination. Generally, it is expected that about seventy-five to eighty per cent of those who attempt the examination will meet or exceed this standard.

A student may write the examination twice a year in January and May. The student has seven years from his/ her registration date with

the ICAO to successfully complete the CKE. If there are medical or compassionate reasons supporting the student's inability to successfully complete the CKE within these seven years, he/ she may petition the ICAO Applications Committee to be given permission to attempt the CKE again.

1) School of Accountancy (SOA) Examination

The SOA Examination is an analytical examination comprised of multi-competency questions, however there is no direct testing of core knowledge on this examination. It focuses instead on competencies and the application of competencies in various scenarios.

The primary objectives of the Professional Program examinations (CKE and SOA) are to assess students' readiness to attempt the UFE and to provide those permitted to write the UFE with an assessment of the core knowledge and core competencies demonstrated on the examinations. The Competency Map describes the objectives, knowledge and skill expectations of the UFE and is used by the examinations committee in setting the scope of the examinations and the standards required to proceed to the UFE.

Those students who, through their CKE and SOA results, demonstrate a reasonable level of readiness to attempt the UFE, will be permitted to proceed. The passing standard is determined for each Professional Program examination by the examinations committee in consultation with the director of the SOA and the supervisor of the examination marking centre.

A student has seven years from the date of registration with the ICAO to successfully complete the SOA examination. The SOA examination can be written once a year in June. If there are medical or compassionate reasons supporting the student's inability to successfully complete the SOA examination within these seven years, he/ she may petition the ICAO Applications Committee to be given permission to attempt the SOA examination again.

Uniform Evaluation - UFE

The UFE is a three day national examination normally held in September. The purpose of the UFE is to assess whether candidates have acquired the competencies required of an entry-level CA through a uniform written evaluation that all CAs must pass in order to qualify for entry to the profession.

The CICA is responsible for the UFE through the Board of Evaluators. The Board of Evaluators (BOE or board) comprises a chair

and nine members. The chair and one bilingual member are appointed by the Education & Qualifications Committee (EQC); the other eight are appointed by the provincial institutes. Board members are appointed for a three-year term and the chair for a two year term.

The BOE's responsibilities, as set out in its terms of reference, include:

- Setting the UFE in accordance with the CA Candidates' Competency Map (the Map) and other directions from the EQC.
- Submitting the UFE and the evaluation guides to the provincial institutes for review.
- Marking the candidates' responses and recommending to the provincial institutes the pass or fail standing that should be given to each candidate.
- Reporting annually on the UFE to the provincial institutes, in such form and detail and at such time as is satisfactory to the EQC.

Each board member is actively involved in the preparation of the UFE simulations, the setting of the passing profile, the preparation of evaluation guides, and the supervision of the evaluation process.

Board members are jointly responsible for determining the passing standard.

The Decision Model

The pass/fail decision model used by the board has three key decision points, or levels, are applied in reaching the pass/fail decision, as follows:

1. The response must be sufficient, i.e., the candidate must demonstrate competence on the primary indicators (Level 1). In assessing sufficiency, the board considered the number of times that a candidate achieved "Competent" and/or "Reaching Competence" across all primary indicators (both specific competencies and pervasive qualities).
2. The response must demonstrate depth in the areas of Performance Measurement and Assurance (Level 2). In assessing depth the board considered the number of times that a candidate achieved "Competent" in each of the Assurance and Performance Measurement primary indicators.
3. The response must demonstrate breadth across all areas of the Map. In assessing breadth the board considered the number of times that a candidate achieved "Reaching Competence" across primary indicators in each of the specific competency areas. If a candidate failed to demonstrate breadth on the basis of the primary indicators, the board considered the information provided by the secondary indicators for the deficient competency area.

Evaluation guides

The board applies evaluation procedures that enable it to decide which candidates demonstrate readiness to practise public accounting. An evaluation guide was prepared for each simulation included in the Uniform Evaluation. Besides identifying the primary and secondary indicators of competence, each evaluation guide includes carefully defined performance levels to assist markers in evaluating a candidate's competence relative to the indicators. Five categories of performance are given for each primary indicator. The candidate's performance must be ranked in one of the five categories, namely:

- Not addressed
- Nominal competence
- Reaching competence
- Competent
- Highly competent

For each secondary indicator, the candidate's performance is ranked in one of three categories:

- Not addressed
- Nominal competence
- Competent

Preparation and structure of the UFE

The CA Qualification staff of the Education Services department of the CICA maintains a pool of simulations sufficiently large and broad in scope to provide a variety of alternative simulations embracing all sections of the Map. The board provides guidance as to the content and nature of simulations to be included in the pool.

The board staff work in conjunction with authors to ensure that simulations achieve the overall intent and design objectives while adhering to the competencies and the proficiency levels specified in the Map. The board selects simulations from the pool maintained by the staff, and reviews and refines these simulations to make up the annual three-paper evaluation.

Setting the passing standard

In determining which candidates pass the UFE, the BOE uses a passing profile. A candidate is judged in relation to the board's pre-established expectations of an entry-level chartered accountant. To meet the passing profile, a candidate's response must meet the three levels defined earlier.

In setting the passing profile, the board considers the following:

- The competency area requirements.
- The level of difficulty of each simulation.
- The level of difficulty of each competency indicator.
- The design and application of the evaluation

guides.

- **Comments from leaders and assistant leaders regarding any marking difficulties encountered or any time constraints noted.**
- **Possible ambiguity of wording or of translation of a simulation.**

Determining which candidates pass

Near the completion of the marking process, board members each read a sample of candidate responses for their assigned simulation to satisfy themselves that the markers had applied the judgments as intended. Based principally on these readings, and on the evaluation of each candidate made by the markers, the board reviewed its pre-established passing profile and set preliminary requirements for Level 2-depth in the areas of Performance Measurement and Assurance and for Level 3-breadth across all competency areas.

Prior to the fair pass meeting, board members each read a sample of candidate responses for their assigned competency area to satisfy themselves as to the requirements they had set for Levels 2 and 3. They finalized those Level 2 and 3 requirements at their fair pass meeting, taking into account the number of valid opportunities available to candidates to demonstrate their competence in each of the competency areas. The board then established the Level 1 requirement for the three-paper set. In establishing the Level 1 requirement, the board considered whether the results could be wholly or partially explained by any inconsistency in the evaluation or in the board's process.

In reaching its decision, the board determines which candidates pass on a national basis only, without regard to provincial origin or language. Similarly, the detailed comments are based on analyses of the performance of all candidates. The board leaves the interpretation of provincial results to the provincial institutes.

EXAMINATION ATTEMPTS:

In Ontario, students have four attempts at the UFE. A student must attempt the UFE within seven years of his/ her registration with the ICAO and successfully complete the UFE within ten years of his/ her registration with the ICAO. If there are medical or compassionate reasons supporting the student's inability to successfully complete the UFE within these ten years, he/ she may petition the ICAO Applications Committee to be given permission to attempt the UFE again.

Provisions also exist with our regulations to allow a student to continue to the School of Accountancy or to the UFE without achieving a

successful result on the CKE or SOA exam respectively, in the event that there are medical, compassionate or other circumstances that occurred during or in close proximity to the examination.

There is no limit on the number of times the CARE may be written.

ii. Describe how the exam is tested for validity and reliability. If results are below desired levels, describe how you correct the deficiencies.

CARE

The Examinations Committee (EC) is responsible for the selection of examination topics (validity and relevance), the review and approval of the examination questions (difficulty and comparability with prior CARE), the review and approval of the marking process (evaluation guide development, independent double marking and arbitration), and the review and approval of the examination results (passing standard and fairness).

CARE questions, evaluation guides and suggested solutions are prepared by external authors on topics recommended by the EC; the authors are CAs specializing in the area of the questions commissioned to them; a CA-Lawyer prepares business law and rules of professional conduct questions.

The EC reviews the questions, evaluation guides and suggested solutions and ensure that the questions are relevant and the CARE is a valid test of the CARE's objectives. Any deficiencies in the design of the questions are resolved by the Associate Director of Education, in consultation with the authors of the questions. Revised questions and related materials are submitted to the EC for review and approval.

CARE results are analyzed and papers falling within a range are selected for second marking; usually 40% to 50% of all papers are selected for second marking, each paper being assigned to a different marker in the team. The same checks as in the first marking are performed to ensure completeness, accuracy and reliability of the results' data.

The results of the second marking are analyzed and compared to the first marking results. When discrepancies of more than one mark exist between first and second marking, the two markers meet to arbitrate the paper and reach a consensus on the final mark. When discrepancies of one mark or less exist, the final mark is determined by averaging the first and second marking results.

The EC also determines the passing standard for the CARE, in consultation with the Director of Education and the Associate Director in charge of the CARE marking centre. In

determining the passing standard, papers around an estimated pass mark are selected, read and ranked by the Director and one or two Associate Director(s) of Education. The ranking is based on an overall assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of a given paper.

CKE

The Education department ensures that the following indicators are at acceptable levels for each CKE. : the Spearman-Brown index, the Kuder-Richardson 20 formula and the Kuder-Richardson 21 formula. In addition, to ensure the answer key is valid, all questions with a negative bi-serial and questions where less than half of the students selected the correct answer are reviewed. If there is a problem with a question, all students are awarded that question as correct.

In order to determine the appropriate passing score, three steps are taken which are described below.

A. Equate the performance on the repeat questions

B. Reassess the level of difficulty based on actual results

The level of difficulty established for each question is set by the Examination Committee. Where actual results differ from the assessed value by >0.3 or <-0.2 the level of difficulty is revised where appropriate. As a result of the adjustments to the level of difficulty, the expected initial passing score is adjusted.

C. Changes by area for normative adjustments

Each competency area is assessed to see if an adjustment is required. The competency areas are as outlined by the UFE Candidates' Competency Map and are as follows:

Governance, Strategy and Risk management
Performance Measurement and reporting
Assurance
Finance
Management Decision-Making
Taxation

The actual assessment mark should be higher than the assessed mark value. If the difference is greater than 0.10, an adjustment is made to the assessed mark.

SOA

Validity and reliability of how the exam is tested is the responsibility of the ICAO Education staff, the marking centre supervisor, the markers at the SOA marking centre and the Exam Committee. ICAO Education staff develops an evaluation guide for each question on the examination. The Exam committee approves the

evaluation guides. Once the examination is written, the evaluation guides are tested by the markers to ensure they are valid and reliable. Each question has a team of markers to test the evaluation guide before the students' responses are marked. The candidate's performance must be ranked in one of the five categories, namely:

- Not addressed
- Nominal competence
- Reaching competence
- Competent
- Highly competent

The marking process is as follows:

Consistency Marking:

Each team marks and discusses a minimum of seven common papers (i.e., photocopies of the same response). The objective of this phase is to apply the preliminary evaluation Guide interpretations (as set by the Education staff and marking centre supervisor) to actual papers and to ensure that each indicator is being interpreted and applied similarly by each marker. Markers make comments on their master Guides to ensure that each indicator would be consistently applied during the live marking phase. Movement up the Guide "ladder" for each indicator on each paper is tracked to ensure that consistency among the markers could be confirmed. During discussions, care is taken to ensure that indicator levels are awarded consistently for the level of competency demonstrated by the student. The objective of this procedure is enhance consistency and to ensure that the application of the Guide would be consistent throughout the various phases of the centre.

Test Marking:

Once the Team Leaders, of the ICAO Education staff, the marking centre supervisor are satisfied that general consistency had been attained, each team then marks a cumulative sample of between 170 and 200 papers. The marking system charts the number of times each level of competency is awarded for each indicator in total and by marker. The objectives of this phase are to:

- Identify valid considerations and alternative solutions not included in the solution;
- Assess whether the upper range of the available marks for each question is likely to be awarded;
- Ensure that a full range of marks is being awarded by each marker and to obtain a preliminary idea of the anticipated mean on each question;
- Identify areas where markers are not consistent in applying the Guides; and
- Obtain a number of test marks under

simulated live marking conditions.

After the marking of the test papers, expectations are adjusted accordingly and amendments to the application of the Guides are made as necessary to ensure an appropriate range of marks. The team reviews the results with the ICAO Education staff and the marking centre supervisor. Each team then reviews the number of times each marker awards each level of competence for each indicator. Where significant disparities are noted between markers on individual indicators, interpretation is clarified. At this stage, an assessment is made as to whether the full range of the levels of competence (i.e. Not addressed to Highly Competent) is being used. The evaluation guide is then set and each team then marks additional common papers to apply the adjusted Guides to further enhance consistency. Being satisfied that all objectives had been met, live marking then commences.

Live Marking:

The following control procedures are in place during the live marking phase:

Both Team Leaders on each team remark papers of each other team member throughout the centre on a test basis. Differences in the application of the Guide by individual markers are identified and discussed with the marker. Each team member is asked to discuss unusual responses or judgment issues with the Team Leader and the team if beneficial. As a result, the consistency of markers is monitored throughout the centre.

The frequency of competency levels awarded for each indicator comparing each marker to the team results are monitored periodically throughout the live phase to identify any marker who appears to be deviating from the group norm or shifting in his or her application of the Guide.

Re-Marking:

Approximately 50% of the papers are selected for re-marks. During the initial marking, all papers are marked in the marking system. The markers entered notes in the marking system for each indicator to provide a trail of the page numbers relevant to each indicator. No marks are made on the paper other than a marker's initial to indicate that each page has been read. The second marking is completely objective. The initials are checked 100% for completeness by ICAO contract staff after both the marking and re-marking phases.

Internal Consistency Checks and Arbitration:

The system compares the first and second marking and highlights any indicators where different assessments are made with the

objective of ensuring internal consistency and to ensure that the candidates are assessed appropriately. On all questions, every difference noted on the indicators is reviewed by a third marker. The marker arbitrating the differences arrives at an arbitrated final assessment for each indicator. Comments are also arbitrated.

UFE

Evaluation guides

The board applies evaluation procedures that enable it to decide which candidates demonstrate readiness to practise public accounting. An evaluation guide was prepared for each simulation included in the Uniform Evaluation. Besides identifying the primary and secondary indicators of competence, each evaluation guide includes carefully defined performance levels to assist markers in evaluating a candidate's competence relative to the indicators. Five categories of performance are given for each primary indicator. The candidate's performance must be ranked in one of the five categories, namely:

- Not addressed
- Nominal competence
- Reaching competence
- Competent
- Highly competent

For each secondary indicator, the candidate's performance is ranked in one of three categories:

- Not addressed
- Nominal competence
- Competent

Setting the passing standard

In determining which candidates pass the UFE, the BOE uses a passing profile. A candidate is judged in relation to the board's pre-established expectations of an entry-level chartered accountant. To meet the passing profile, a candidate's response must meet the three levels.

In setting the passing profile, the board considers the following:

- The competency area requirements.
- The level of difficulty of each simulation.
- The level of difficulty of each competency indicator.
- The design and application of the evaluation guides.
- Comments from leaders and assistant leaders regarding any marking difficulties encountered or any time constraints noted.
- Possible ambiguity of wording or of translation of a simulation.

Determining which candidates pass

Near the completion of the marking process, board members each read a sample of candidate responses for their assigned

simulation to satisfy themselves that the markers had applied the judgments as intended. Based principally on these readings, and on the evaluation of each candidate made by the markers, the board reviewed its pre-established passing profile and set preliminary requirements for Level 2-depth in the areas of Performance Measurement and Assurance and for Level 3-breadth across all competency areas.

Prior to the fair pass meeting, board members each read a sample of candidate responses for their assigned competency area to satisfy themselves as to the requirements they had set for Levels 2 and 3. They finalized those Level 2 and 3 requirements at their fair pass meeting, taking into account the number of valid opportunities available to candidates to demonstrate their competence in each of the competency areas. The board then established the Level 1 requirement for the three-paper set. In establishing the Level 1 requirement, the board considered whether the results could be wholly or partially explained by any inconsistency in the evaluation or in the board's process.

In reaching its decision, the board determines which candidates pass on a national basis only, without regard to provincial origin or language. Similarly, the detailed comments are based on analyses of the performance of all candidates. The board leaves the interpretation of provincial results to the provincial institutes. (we need to add something about UFE consistency checks – maybe “Consistency in maintained in a manner similar to the SOA process described above, except that all papers are marked twice and arbitrated for the UFE.

iii. State how often exam questions are updated and the process for doing so.

CARE

The questions used in the CARE are updated annually. The Examinations Committee (EC) is responsible for the selection of examination topics (validity and relevance), the review and approval of the examination questions (difficulty and comparability with prior CARE), the review and approval of the marking process (evaluation guide development, independent double marking and arbitration), and the review and approval of the examination results (passing standard and fairness).

CARE questions, evaluation guides and suggested solutions are prepared by external authors on topics recommended by the EC; the authors are CA specializing in the area of the questions commissioned to them; CA-Lawyer are preparing business law and rules of professional conduct questions.

The EC reviews the questions, evaluation guides and suggested solutions and ensure that the questions are relevant and the CARE is a valid test of the CARE's objectives. Any deficiencies in the design of the questions are resolved by the Associate Director of Education, in consultation with the authors of the questions. Revised questions and related materials are submitted to the EC for review and approval.

CKE

Questions are updated at each offering. Repeat Questions are updated and new questions are reviewed by an ICAO Education Associate Director and then reviewed by the exam committee, another Associate Director and the Director to ensure they are technically correct at the time of the exam.

SOA

All questions are new for each offering and are reviewed by 2 Associate Directors, the Director, a sub-committee of the exam committee and 1 or 2 outside consultants to ensure they are technically correct.

UFE

All questions are new for each offering and are written in writing workshops far in advance of the examination date. The questions are reviewed by the Board of Evaluators (a ten person team) as well as CICA staff, provincial reviewers and outside technical reviewers. Questions are professionally edited for correct grammar and are translated into French by the CICA translation department.

Third-Party Organizations (9 / 13)

a) List any third-party organizations (such as language testers, credential assessors or examiners) relied upon by your organization to make assessment decisions.

With the exception of IQAB, which is a CA profession national body, the Institute does not use outside assessment organizations. Internal education assessments may be done if needed. The IQAB process has been discussed elsewhere in this report.

b) Explain what measures your organization takes to ensure that any third-party organization that it relies upon to make an assessment:

i. provides information about assessment practices to applicants

Not applicable. IQAB does not deal directly with applicants.

ii. utilizes current and accurate information about qualifications from outside Canada

Not applicable.

iii. provides timely decisions, responses and reasons to applicants

Not applicable

iv. provides training to individuals assessing

Not applicable

qualifications

v. provides access to records related to the assessment to applicants

Not applicable

vi. accommodates applicants with special needs, such as visual impairment

Not applicable

c) If your organization relies on a third party to conduct credential assessments:

i. Explain how the third party determines the level (e.g., baccalaureate, master's, Ph.D.) of the credential presented for assessment.

Not applicable

ii. Describe the criteria that are applied to determine equivalency.

Not applicable

iii. Explain how work experience is taken into account.

Not applicable

d) If your organization relies on a third party to conduct competency assessments:

i. Describe the methodology used to evaluate competency.

Not applicable

ii. Explain how the methodology used to evaluate competency is validated, and how often it is validated.

Not applicable

iii. Explain how work experience is used in the assessment of competency.

Not applicable

e) If your organization relies on a third party to conduct prior learning assessments:

i. Describe the methodology used to evaluate prior learning.

Not applicable

ii. Explain how the methodology used to evaluate prior learning is validated, and how often it is validated.

Not applicable

iii. Explain how work experience is used in the assessment of prior learning.

Not applicable

f) If your organization relies on a third party to administer examinations:

i. Describe the exam format, scoring method and number of rewrites permitted.

Not applicable

ii. Describe how the exam is tested for validity and reliability. If results are below desired levels, describe how you correct the deficiencies.

Not applicable

iii. State how often exam questions are updated and the process for doing so.

Not applicable

Training (10 / 13)

a) Describe the training that your organization provides to:

i. individuals who assess qualifications

Members of the Applications Committee are provided with an orientation session at the commencement of their term on the Committee. They receive additional training when available on cultural differences. Ongoing updates are provided to the Committee on changes to the Institute's bylaws or regulations as they may affect applicant assessment. Because most members of the Committee are CAs they are familiar with the training process the competencies required.

Staff members are trained in the application of the Institute's bylaws, policies and procedures by more senior staff such as Associate Directors or the Director. Qualifications for certain positions within the Institute require that the incumbent have specialized knowledge of the assessment process.

In addition, staff members also attended training on cultural diversity as may be required as part of their ongoing training.

ii. individuals who make registration decisions

Staff is involved in the process of creating policies, procedures and bylaws that may affect the registration process and decisions. They are therefore, very familiar with the policy and the objectives of the policy. Ongoing updating of the Institute's bylaws, etc. are part of the day-to-day operations of the Institute and information is circulated within the Institute on any changes as they occur. When available, staff will cultural diversity training.

iii. individuals who make internal review or appeal decisions

Staff is involved in the process of creating policies, procedures and bylaws that may affect the registration process and are therefore familiar with the policy and the objectives of the policy. Ongoing updating of the Institute's bylaws, etc. are part of the day-to-day operations of the Institute. When available, staff attend cultural diversity training.

Members of the Applications Committee and the Appeal Committee receive an orientation regarding their duties, responsibilities and how to interpret and apply the Institutes' bylaws and policies. Ongoing training and updating of information takes place as needed. Committee members also attend cultural diversity training and any other training specific to the function of the committee.

Agreements on the Recognition of Qualifications (11 / 13)

Examples of agreements on the recognition of professional qualifications include mutual recognition,

reciprocity and labour mobility agreements. Such agreements may be national or international, between regulatory bodies, associations or jurisdictions.

a) List any agreements on the recognition of qualifications that were in place during the reporting period.

Agreements have been in place for a number of years for recognized foreign accounting bodies. These have not changed with the exception of the state boards of accountancy from the United States which have over time, modified their education requirements. Those that meet the Institute's requirements and offer mutual recognition of CAs remain on the list of recognized state boards.

The Recognized Accounting Bodies are:

- **The Institutes of Chartered Accountants of Australia**
 - **The Institutes of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales**
 - **The Institutes of Chartered Accountants of Ireland**
 - **The Institutes of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand**
 - **The Institutes of Chartered Accountants of Scotland**
 - **The Institutes of Chartered Accountants of South Africa**
 - **Ordre des experts comptables et des comptables agréés, France**
 - **The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants having completed the Qualifying Program (Professional Program and Final Professional Examination)**
 - **The Institute des Reviseurs d'Enterprises de Belgique**
 - **The Instituto Mexicano de Contadores Publicos**
 - **The Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants**
 - **The Netherlands Institute of Register Accountants**
- **Any State Boards of Accountancy in the United States of America which have adopted the 150 hour education requirement for the CPA designation or for the CPA designation and licensure and which exempt Ontario CAs from the requirement to pass the uniform CPA examination.**

b) Explain the impact of these agreements on the registration process or on applicants for registration.

An applicant that is a member or a former member of a recognized accounting body will be required to proceed in the registration process as previously described elsewhere in this survey. If the applicant does not come from a recognized state board of accountancy then he or she is encourage to seek membership in a state board that meets the Institute's requirements. For those applicants who are not a member or a former member of an accounting body with mutual recognition, the process described elsewhere in this survey applies.

Languages in which application information materials are available

a) Indicate the languages in which application information materials are available.

Language	Yes/No
English	Yes
French	No
Other (please specify)	

Paid staff employed by your organization

b) State the number of paid staff employed by your organization in the following categories.

Category	Staff
Total staff employed by the regulatory body	120
Staff involved in appeals process	4
Staff involved in registration process	4

Enter "n/a" when the process does not exist in your registration practices. Enter "0" when the process exists in your registration practices but the correct value is zero.

Countries where internationally educated applicants were initially trained

c) List the countries where your internationally educated applicants* were initially trained in the profession, and the number of applicants trained in each country.

Applicants	Country of training (Canada excluded)	Number of applicants**
Largest number	United States	42
Second-largest number	United Kingdom	16
Third-largest number	South Africa	10
Fourth-largest number	India	4
Fifth-largest number	Mexico	1

* Persons who have applied to start the process for entry to the profession.

***Enter "n/a" when the process does not exist in your registration practices. Enter "0" when the process exists in your registration practices but the correct value is zero.*

Jurisdiction where members were initially trained

d) Indicate where your members* were initially trained in the profession (use only numbers, do not enter commas or decimals).

Jurisdiction where members were initially trained in the profession (before they were granted use of the protected

	title or professional designation in Ontario)					
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31	Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
Total Members	30651	1697	262	535	0	33145
Non-practising members	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

* Persons who are currently able to use the protected title or professional designation of your profession.

Enter "n/a" when the process does not exist in your registration practices. Enter "0" when the process exists in your registration practices but the correct value is zero.

Additional comments:

The Institute does not have a "non-practising" class of membership.

Applications your organization processed in the past year

e) State the number of applications your organization processed in the past year (use only numbers, do not enter commas or decimals).

	Jurisdiction where members were initially trained in the profession (before they were granted use of the protected title or professional designation in Ontario)					
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31	Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
New applications received	1293	70	48	37	N/A	1448
Applicants actively pursuing licensing (applicants who had some contact with your organization in the reporting year)	1281	0	30	35	N/A	1346
Inactive applicants (applicants who had no contact with your organization in the reporting year)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Applicants who met all requirements and were authorized to become members but did not become members	0	0	0	0	0	0
Applicants who became members	863	70	27	34	N/A	994

Applicants who were authorized to receive an alternative class of license* but were not issued a license	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Applicants who were issued an alternative class of license*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

Enter "n/a" when the process does not exist in your registration practices. Enter "0" when the process exists in your registration practices but the correct value is zero.

Additional comments:

The Institute contacts all applicants at least once per year. The Institute does not have an alternate class of licence.

* An alternative class of license enables its holder to practise with limitations, but additional registration requirements must be met in order for the member to be fully licensed. Please list and describe below the alternative classes of license that your organization grants, such as student, intern, associate, provisional or temporary.

	Class of License	Description
a)	N/A	N/A
b)	N/A	N/A
c)	N/A	N/A

Reviews and appeals your organization processed in the past year

f) State the number of reviews and appeals your organization processed in the past year (use only numbers, do not enter commas or decimals).

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31	Jurisdiction where members were initially trained in the profession (before they were granted use of the protected title or professional designation in Ontario)					
	Ontario	Other Canadian Provinces	USA	Other International	Unknown	Total
Applications that were subject to an internal review or that were referred to a statutory committee of your governing council, such as a Registration Committee	0	0	0	0	0	0
Applicants who initiated an appeal of a registration decision	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appeals heard	0	0	0	0	0	0

Registration decisions changed following an appeal	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Enter "n/a" when the process does not exist in your registration practices. Enter "0" when the process exists in your registration practices but the correct value is zero.

Additional comments:

Certification (13 / 13)

I hereby certify that:

- - I have reviewed the information submitted in this Fair Registration Practices Report (the "Report")
- - all information required to be provided in the Report is included; and
- - the information contained in the Report is accurate.

Name of individual with authority to sign on behalf of the organization:

Robert Gubbins

Title:

Director- Admissions, Membership & Licensing

Date:

Feb 27, 2009